

REMARKS

Claim 8 is canceled without prejudice, and therefore claims 7 and 9 to 12 are pending.

In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

With respect to paragraph eight (8) of the Office Action, claims 8 to 10 were objected to as depending from a rejected claim, but were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. While the rejections of the base claims may not be agreed with, to facilitate matters, claim 7 now includes the feature of claim 8, which has been canceled without prejudice, and claim 9 now depends from claim 7. Claim 10 has been rewritten as an independent claim by including the features of original claim 7. Claims 11 and 12 depend from allowable claim 7, as presented. Accordingly, claims 7 and 9 to 12 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

With respect to paragraph 7 of the Office Action, claims 7, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,008,678 ("Herman").

While the rejections of the claims may not be agreed with, to facilitate matters, claim 7 now includes the feature of claim 8, which has been canceled without prejudice, and claim 9 now depends from claim 7. Claim 10 has been rewritten as an independent claim by including the features of original claim 7. Claims 11 and 12 depend from allowable claim 7, as presented. Accordingly, claims 7 and 9 to 12 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Accordingly, claims 7 and 9 to 12 are allowable.

Application Serial No. 10/527,150
Attorney Docket No. 10191/3795
Reply to Office Action of October 23, 2006

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objections and rejections be withdrawn, since they have been obviated. All issues raised having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Dated: 4/20/2007

Respectfully Submitted,
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